

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A steering and suspension apparatus comprising:
  - an upper triple clamp;
  - a lower triple clamp; and
  - a shock tube,
    - (a) coupled to the triple clamps
    - (b) defining a steering axis of the apparatus,
    - (c) having a cavity coaxial with the steering axis large enough to hold a suspension component, and
    - (d) having an upper end adapted to couple to the suspension component.
2. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a pair of telescopic forks coupled to the triple clamps.
3. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 2 wherein:
  - the telescopic forks contain neither spring components nor damping components.
4. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 2 wherein:
  - the telescopic forks contain one of spring components and damping components.
5. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 2 wherein:
  - the telescopic forks are ventilated to prevent pressurization during telescopic action.
6. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:
  - a fork buttress coupled to the telescopic forks.
7. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:
  - the suspension component;
  - wherein an upper end of the suspension component is coupled to the shock tube and a lower end of the suspension component is coupled to the fork buttress.

- 1 8. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 the suspension component.
- 1 9. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 8 wherein:  
2 the suspension component comprises a spring.
- 1 10. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 9 wherein:  
2 the suspension component further comprises a damper.
- 1 11. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 8 wherein:  
2 the suspension component comprises a damper.
- 1 12. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 2 wherein:  
2 the telescopic forks have substantially inert suspension characteristics.
- 1 13. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2 the shock tube includes a passageway whereby the suspension component can be  
3 accessed for making suspension adjustments.
- 1 14. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:  
2 the suspension component, and wherein the suspension component is adjustable for at  
3 least one of,  
4 ride height,  
5 spring preload,  
6 rebound damping, and  
7 compression damping.
- 1 15. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 14 wherein:  
2 the passageway facilitates access to the suspension component substantially coaxially  
3 with respect to the steering axis.
- 1 16. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a frame including a steering tube; and

3 an upper bearing and a lower bearing rotatably coupling the shock tube to the steering  
4 tube.

1 17. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 16 comprising a motorcycle.

2 18. The steering and suspension apparatus of claim 16 comprising a bicycle.

3 19. A two-wheeled vehicle comprising:

4 a frame including a steering tube defining a steering axis;  
5 an upper triple clamp and a lower triple clamp rotatably coupled to the steering tube;  
6 a pair of sliding-tube forks each having an upper fork tube coupled to the upper triple  
7 clamp and to the lower triple clamp, and a lower fork tube;  
8 a suspension component disposed substantially coaxially with the steering axis; and  
9 a front wheel rotatably coupled to the lower fork tubes.

1 20. The vehicle of claim 19 wherein:

2 the suspension component comprises all of the vehicle's front spring and damping  
3 components.

1 21. The vehicle of claim 19 further comprising:

2 a fork buttress coupled to the lower fork tubes;  
3 wherein a bottom end of the suspension component is coupled to the fork buttress.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

2 a pair of fork lowers respectively coupled to the lower fork tubes;  
3 wherein the fork buttress is formed as integral parts of the fork lowers.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

2 a shock tube disposed within the steering tube and including a passage therethrough  
3 substantially coaxial with the steering axis;  
4 a pair of bearings rotatably coupling the shock tube to the steering tube;  
5 a top bolt coupling the shock tube to the upper triple clamp and having a passage  
6 therethrough substantially coaxial with the steering axis;

7            wherein the suspension component includes a setting adjustment mechanism which is  
8            accessible via the passages through the top bolt and the shock tube.

1            24.    The vehicle of claim 23 wherein the setting adjustment mechanism adjusts at least one of:  
2            ride height;  
3            spring preload;  
4            rebound damping; and  
5            compression damping.

1            25.    The vehicle of claim 19 wherein the vehicle comprises a motorcycle.

1            26.    The vehicle of claim 19 wherein the vehicle comprises a bicycle.